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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAYOR KISS ANNOUNCES
COLCHESTER AVE “COMPLETE STREETS” DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

Project would be the first in Burlington to adopt “Complete Streets” model for safer traffic flow and improved pedestrian and bicycle access

Burlington, VT, September 2, 2010 – At a press conference today, Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss announced that the City will be conducting a “Complete Streets” demonstration project as part of the repaving of Colchester Avenue. Mayor Kiss was joined by City Councilor Sharon Bushor of Ward 1, staff from the Department of Public Works, and Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur of AARP-VT, as well as representatives of several other organizations involved in the project.

The City’s plans to repave Colchester Avenue as part of its scheduled street repair program will include a demonstration project to test a “Complete Streets” scenario between Prospect Street and East Avenue. Colchester Avenue will be re-striped with reduced through lanes and a center two-way left turn lane. After completion of this stage of the project, data will be collected and traffic behaviors observed during a 4-week demonstration period to determine whether the change will be made permanent. The repaving will begin on September 8 and be completed within one week, and will be followed by the 4-week demonstration project.

This will be the first ever designed “Complete Streets” project implemented in Burlington, and is being funded in part by the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO). Planning and coordination for the project has included the Ward 1 NPA, Local Motion, the City of Winooski, consultants Resource Systems Group, Inc., CCMPO, and the Campus-Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA), among others. Councilor Bushor and Ward 1 NPA members were part of a Colchester Ave ad-hoc task force (created by the City Council in

2004 and facilitated by CATMA), which reviewed and made recommendations about improving multi-modal travel on Colchester Ave.

The Complete Streets concept is one that designs streets to enable safe access for all users. In the case of Colchester Avenue, the City is hoping to reduce weaving traffic which has contributed to sideswipe crashes. In addition, the project will create more room for the installation of a bicycle lane along Colchester Avenue. Colchester Avenue is among the City's busiest streets, seeing an average of 20,000 vehicles per day. The Complete Streets concept is recommended for Colchester Avenue in the City's comprehensive Transportation Plan completed in 2009.

"This is an important opportunity to test a Complete Streets design on a segment of roadway – in close proximity to UVM and FAHC and one of the primary routes to the downtown, waterfront and points north – which sees a high volume of multi-modal uses," said Mayor Bob Kiss. "This project results from careful planning, the work of several departments and agencies, and the broad involvement of community members. We hope this is a successful demonstration project which will ultimately enhance safety and accessibility for cars, bicycles, and pedestrians."

For more information about the project go to:

<http://www.dpw.ci.burlington.vt.us/transportation/Colchester%20Ave%20Demo/ColchesterAve.php>.

Burlington is in Year 2 of an enhanced 3-year paving program that is among the most significant street work efforts in the City's history. This year the City will pave 10 miles of road and more than 50 streets under the supervision of the Department of Public Works (see <http://www.dpw.ci.burlington.vt.us/> for more info). This work results from a \$5.5 million bond and an increase in the dedicated street tax proposed by the City and approved by Burlington voters in November of 2008. Colchester Ave is slated for repaving as part of the street work program.